HUACHUCA SPRINGSNAIL
(*Pyrgulopsis thompsoni*)

STATUS: Candidate

SPECIES DESCRIPTION: The Huachuca springsnail is a small (1.7 - 3.2 mm (0.05-0.13 inch) tall) aquatic snail with three to five somewhat convex whorls on the shell. Identification must be verified by characteristics of reproductive organs.

HABITAT: Springs or cienegas at 1,372 to 1,829 meters (4,500 to 7,200 feet) elevation in southeastern Arizona and adjacent portions of Sonora, Mexico, including nine sites in the upper San Pedro River drainage (Huachuca Mountains, Canelo Hills, San Rafael Valley - Arizona/Sonora), and four in the upper Santa Cruz River drainage (Sonoita Creek drainage, San Rafael Valley, Santa Cruz River drainage - Sonora). Springs and cienegas inhabited by the snail are typically marshy areas characterized by various aquatic and emergent plant species that occur within plains grassland, oak and pine-oak woodlands, and coniferous forest vegetation communities. The species is typically found in the shallower areas of springs or cienegas, often in rocky seeps at the spring source.

RANGE: Current: The species is known from nine sites in the upper San Pedro River drainage (Huachuca Mountains, Canelo Hills, San Rafael Valley - Arizona/Sonora), and four in the upper Santa Cruz River drainage (Sonoita Creek drainage, San Rafael Valley, Santa Cruz River drainage - Sonora). In Arizona, the species is found in Cochise and Santa Cruz counties.

Potential: Many potentially suitable sites in the southern half of the Huachuca Mountains have not been surveyed for Huachuca springsnail. Other potentially suitable unsurveyed habitats exist within the range of the species.

REASONS FOR DECLINE / VULNERABILITY: Loss or degradation of spring and cienega habitat due to overgrazing, timber harvest, altered fire regimes, drought, mining, water developments, recreation, and catastrophic fire resulting from human-caused alterations of fire regimes. Extirpation of a population could occur as a result of major storms, drought, fire, or other forms of environmental stochasticity. Because populations are isolated, once extirpated, sites are unlikely to be recolonized without active management. Small populations are also subject to genetic deterioration and demographic variability, which increases the likelihood of extinction.

LAND MANAGEMENT / OWNERSHIP: Private (seven sites, two of which are in Sonora), and Fort Huachuca (six sites).